

THE BLIND IN CLEVELAND

1940

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AMERICAN FOUNDATION
FOR THE BLIND INC.

THE BLIND IN CLEVELAND



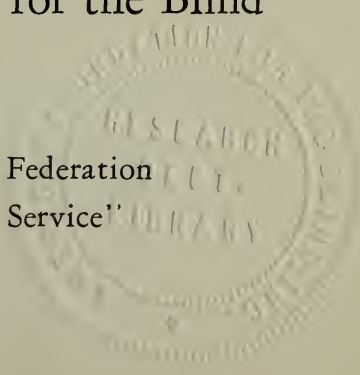
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The Cleveland Society for the Blind

1940

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THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

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Colored Committee	MRS. EMMA NEAL

THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

OUTLINE OF PRESENT ACTIVITIES

Organized 1906

Incorporated 1909

Headquarters: 1906-1918 Goodrich House; 1918 to present time, Grasselli House.

Property Owned by Society:

Grasselli House, 2275 East 55th Street. Twenty-two room house in good condition. Presented to the Society by Mr. C. A. Grasselli in 1918.

Industrial Shop Buildings: Two-story fire-proof broom shop, 40x80 ft., erected 1921. Two-story fire-proof building for chair seating, basketry, tag wiring, sewing and weaving, 60x100 ft., erected 1937.

Highbrook Lodge. Presented to the Society in 1928. Twenty-three acres, 5 miles south of Chardon, Ohio. Three original buildings have been augmented by three others, 1 dance hall, 1 cottage for sleeping, 1 for sun baths and complete rest.

Support of the Society—1939:

Community Fund	\$ 15,430.00
Investments and Endowments	8,535.93
Direct Gifts	4,691.92
Miscellaneous	830.42
Total	\$ 29,488.27
Sales—Industrial Shops	\$ 94,800.83
Concession Stands	92,304.87
Total	\$187,105.70

Direction of the Society:

Governed by a Board of Trustees, 30 in number.

Advised by membership of 200 interested friends.

Administration:

The Executive Secretary has served the Society for 29 years, thus assuring the continuity of management which is desirable in such an organization. Assisting her are a Business Manager in charge of finances, sales and purchases, a Supervisor of Case and Group Work, with 2 full-time assistants, 2 Home Teachers,

and Supervisors of the various manufacturing departments. Clerical staff consists of bookkeeper, order clerk, stenographer and switchboard operator.

Persons Served by the Society:

January, 1940. 1057 persons residing in Greater Cleveland and having less than 10% vision, or slightly more, if the prognosis is poor. Every person is certified by an oculist before any continuous service is given.

Sources of Income of Cleveland's Blind:

362 blind persons over eighteen years of age and under sixty-five years, receive Blind Relief under the provisions of the Social Security Act. Average payment for 1939 was \$22.02 per month. Persons over sixty-five are eligible for Aid for the Aged if indigent and citizens of the country.

The Society's employment program in 1939 paid wages to blind workers, \$54,992.50. Others earn their support at work promoted by the Society, as piano tuning, and a hundred other individuals earned their living, or an amount toward it, at 33 different occupations.

Where Blind People Live:

121 blind live in 19 institutions, the largest group being at the Infirmary. Most blind people live with their families, and when they are alone, suitable living arrangements are made for them.

Scope of Work of the Society:

Efforts are all based on case work study of each person. This must be made by people not only trained in social work, but familiar with all the complications connected with blindness. Fifty per cent of all blind people are over 60 years of age, and a large percentage of the entire group have additional handicaps, physical, mental or temperamental.

1—Education:

To assist blind people to make as good an adjustment as possible, doors of opportunity for continued education must be opened. The teaching of Braille reading and writing, typing and certain hand work, is a first step toward normal living. When fingertips are insensitive, or

persons are too old or nervous to master a raised type, they are supplied with a Talking Book, a special phonograph with long playing records. The Society circulates 150 such phonographs, and records are drawn from the Department for the Blind of the Public Library, which also has available 22,103 volumes in raised type.

2—*Recreation or Social Education:*

Dancing, swimming, hiking, dramatics and ability to play many games, remove the sense of limitation so common to blind people. They gain assurance and are more acceptable among sighted people. Many hundreds of concert and other tickets are distributed each year. Various clubs have diversified programs, and the high spot of the year is the summer camp, where 142 blind men and women were entertained during the summer of 1939. A group of 30 colored blind adults enjoyed a week at Phillis Wheatley Camp in 1937, 1938 and again in 1939. This latter project was financed by dramatics directed by the Junior Committee of the Society, blind players being used.

3—*Employment:*

- (a) Home work for those who cannot get out.
- (b) Grasselli House workshops for those who must work under favorable conditions.
- (c) Concession Stands in public buildings, factories and hospitals.

The Society paid in wages to blind \$54,992.50 in 1939.

Miscellaneous:

The Society supplies white canes, bought in part by the Lions' Club from Berea College, Kentucky.

The Society secured, from The Cleveland Railway Company, concession for free passes for all blind able to use them. Cleveland is one of two cities in the country having such a privilege.

The Society obtains, through The American Foundation for the Blind, railroad and bus transportation for a blind person and guide at the rate of one fare for both.

The Society helps people to secure "Seeing Eye" dogs and many other miscellaneous services are rendered.

Early History of the Movement in Cleveland

IN nineteen hundred and six those citizens of Cleveland who had had the misfortune to lose their sight were "sitting in darkness" in a double sense—that darkness which was theirs alone, and an obscurity which hid them from their fellow citizens.

The Public Library had felt the appeal of a small group of blind men who met for reading, and in addition to reading to them, had conducted weekly entertainments and distributed a number of concert tickets. Those in charge of this work were well aware that they were only touching the edges of the situation, and found the same consciousness in the agents of the Associated Charities, who frequently met the blind but could offer no special service. Fortunately, the Massachusetts Association for the Blind had recently demonstrated the possibilities of industrial education of the adult blind, and thus encouraged similar effort in other parts of the country.

In March, 1906, at the joint call of the Public Library and the Associated Charities, a group of interested social workers met and made a tentative plan for work along the lines followed in Boston. A large room and looms were offered by one of the settlement houses for an experimental weaving class for the summer. This proved so successful, and general interest was so plainly aroused, that a society, with constitution and officers, was formed in November of the same year.

The first interest of the new society was naturally in its weaving shop, but it also continued in a small way the collection and distribution of concert tickets, and soon started a chair caning department.

Following organization, the first question was naturally, How shall it be financed? With the great advantage of having space for office and shops given for several years rent free, there was still the need of funds to meet salaries, the purchase of raw materials, and all the small expenses involved in such an anomalous

undertaking as a commercial enterprise which was at the same time philanthropic.

The appeal of blindness is immediate and the response proportionately ready; it has been found that the essential thing is to get the appeal before the public, and the aim of this Society has been to make the appeal in as unsensational a way as possible, while presenting all the needs. As the possibility for employment became known, many blind persons begged for work and a broom shop was started in December, 1907, with one man and one machine in a small house. It was a timid beginning but has developed into a real industry.

Almost from the first, the Society had felt the need of some other education for the blind children than that afforded in the State School. Placing blind children with the seeing in the city schools was a new thought in those days, and it was fifteen months after the first appeal to the superintendent of schools that an experimental class was formed.

There were eight children in the class, which was given from Easter until the summer holidays of 1909 to prove its value. The children had not been in school before, the teacher had not taught the blind before, and yet the results were so apparent that in June the superintendent decided to continue the school the following year.

Though the school authorities endorsed the school, the Society could see that soon there would be need for a trained teacher and supervisor. With this in mind, they called Mr. Robert B. Irwin to the city to divide his time between the work of the Society and the schools. More children were found needing public school instruction, and it was with the heartiest approval of the Society that the Board of Education asked for the full time of Mr. Irwin.

The problem of day school attendance by blind children is not entirely solved inside the schoolroom, however. The children must be taken, sometimes long distances, and the carfare for the blind child and his guide is often more than the parents can afford. This expense was carried by the Society for several years, sometimes at a cost of more than ten dollars a week, until a state appropriation was made sufficiently large to cover it. The

cost of music lessons for the school children was also carried by the Society; all this with the desire that the children should not lose anything they might have had in an institution while they were being used as a demonstration of the value of educating the blind with the seeing.

With this, and some social pleasures such as picnics and clubs, the Society kept a fostering care of the new school venture until its oversight was no longer needed. It was with real regret that the care of the children was relinquished, but it always has been a policy of the Society to demonstrate the need and then let the proper agencies continue the work.

In June, 1912, The Ohio Commission for the Blind began selling the products of its Home Work Department, at a counter loaned for the purpose by The Higbee Company. For many years the Society shared with the Commission the salary of the woman in charge. There has always been the happiest co-operation between the Ohio Commission and the Cleveland Society and with undoubted mutual benefit.

Thus the Cleveland Society for the Blind felt its way on more or less untrodden paths, and launched and guided new ventures until adopted by city or state institutions.

The field of operation of a Society for the Blind is definitely marked. As time goes on, and industrial accidents and infantile blindness gradually decrease, the field will become less in extent, but the possibilities of intensive cultivation of the field are unlimited. Intensive cultivation is a fascinating subject, and when the cultivation is applied to brave or despairing human souls, and the returns are those to be seen every day in the busy workers in the dark about us, we may well say with Saint Paul, "Not as having already attained, we press on."

—*Prudence Sherwin*

Case Work — Personal Service

AN organization which is working for the general well-being of the blind differs from most agencies in that cases are not closed except for death or removal from the city, and the list grows slowly, as additions and deductions almost balance. Workers with the blind thus have the advantage of continuous acquaintance, perhaps for the entire lifetime of the sightless individual. Dr. Richard Cabot talks about "the breathless social worker," and certainly the rapid turnover in most welfare agencies affords insufficient time for the patient study of each individual. Clinical procedure of diagnosis, treatment and follow-up, is used in the Society with every blind person, and this requires staff members trained not only in the principles of social case work, but in the technique needed for successful work with the blind. No two situations are alike, and ingenuity, tact and patience are essential, if progress is to be made. It is important that the nature of the services offered be thoroughly understood by each blind person, and confidence in the organization established. With initial adjustments made, and guidance over a period given, many blind people carry on for years with little or no help. When the going becomes too rough, they turn at once to those of whose understanding and resourcefulness they are sure. Contacts are maintained by the Society with nearly all the blind of Cleveland, an occasional friendly visit being paid even when there is no apparent need. This builds for the organization a strong and practically united following among all the blind.

Included in the services rendered, that of the maintenance of health comes first. No case is added until a recent eye examination is studied, and if vision is 20/200 or less with the best lenses obtainable, a full record is made. Exceptional cases with a poor prognosis are also accepted. The constant effort to improve the general physical condition of the individual involves not only arrangements with physicians and clinics but often transportation as well. Social Security benefits are arranged for, living quarters improved, education of the young people in the family promoted, and many other services rendered, in order that the blind person may lead as happy and useful a life as possible.

Hundreds of garments are distributed each year, and white canes, provided in part by the Lions' Clubs, are presented to blind men. Persons needing guide dogs are assisted in making application and their transportation arranged. Through the courtesy of the Cleveland Railway Company, free street-car passes are available to all the blind and these are issued from the Society's office. The provision for one fare, for blind person and guide, on trains and buses, must be arranged through the Society. Most blind people are, fortunately, a part of families, and often the entire solution of domestic and financial difficulties comes to the organization whose contact has been the longest and relationship the most intimate, The Society for the Blind.

A hundred and twenty-one blind men and women live in various institutions, the largest group being in the County Infirmary. The majority of such inmates are too old or broken to avail themselves of the services of the Society, but teaching of raised type, gifts of radio and victrola, with their maintenance, are most acceptable. Parties, with very good refreshments, are given for the blind men and women at the Infirmary, and a sightless entertainer is always taken out, to add to the pleasure of the occasion. A gift package of fruit, candy, etc., is provided at Christmas. Case work advice and service are available at all times. Several blind inmates are employed in a workshop operated by the Association for the Crippled and Disabled and the Society has co-operated by supplying looms and warp for weaving.

Education of Blind Adults

SEVENTY-FIVE per cent of people suffering from blindness lost their sight after reaching maturity. With their life plans and hopes shattered, some turn eagerly, many reluctantly, to the Society for the Blind for help. It is of utmost importance that they be furnished with new interests which will turn their minds from their tragedy and prepare them for normal living. Lessons in Braille, given by a teacher who is herself blind, are of absorbing interest to many beginners, and material suitable for every level of intelligence is available. A system called Moon type is more easily mastered by older people. There are 22,103 books in raised type in the Department for the Blind in the Public Library and no postage is required for the sending of such reading matter through the mails. A good many blind people can be taught typewriting and so carry on correspondence, and in a few instances earn real money by their literary efforts.

When finger tips are insensitive, through hard work or for other reasons, a Talking Book is suggested. This consists of a machine like a phonograph, used with long-playing records, which are readily changed by a person without sight. The Society circulates 150 reading machines or phonographs, and records are drawn, like Braille books, from the Public Library.

Accounts, in Braille, of notable achievements of blind persons help to stir ambition and build confidence in the future. Long experience has shown that some blind readers need constant stimulation to put into practice what they have learned at considerable effort, and the Home Teacher must be a person of tact and patience.

Education of the blind is extended to home-making and to the mastery of certain crafts, in which the individuals may take pride and which help to fill time that otherwise might be spent brooding over their affliction.

Recreation

THE SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND is fortunate in having a headquarters suitable for play as well as for work. There are but few settlements for the blind in the country, Grasselli House being one of them. Settlements for the seeing serve their immediate neighborhoods, but persons in attendance at clubs, lectures and parties at Grasselli House come from the ends of a widely spread city. Blind men usually come alone, but guides to bring the women are paid when no one in the family can serve in that capacity. Hundreds of blind people are as familiar with Grasselli House as with their own homes; in fact, they look on it as a second home and every effort is made to keep it shining, even in a run-down neighborhood. Its spacious rooms and comfortable furnishings are appreciated by many who live in cramped quarters.

Throughout the years, many clubs have proved of great pleasure and benefit to their members. Glee clubs of men and women, an orchestra, groups putting on dramatics, forums and other discussion groups, men interested in building radio sets, and clubs just for social enjoyment, have all met at Grasselli House. Dances were held regularly for sixteen years until the old dance hall had to be torn down to make way for the addition to the industrial building. Since then, the Dancing Masters' Association arranges for monthly parties in their own halls.

A club of older men meets bi-monthly, and a similar club meets in a distant section of the city; for these groups motor service is provided, also speakers and other entertainment.

Open House on Sunday afternoons brings to Grasselli House a large gathering of blind people and their friends. Programs are arranged and refreshments served by volunteers of the Society. For the Christmas holidays, the house is gay with balsam and pine, and decorations are greatly appreciated, many of the guests having a small measure of vision which enables them to see the bright lights, and they all enjoy the fragrance of the evergreens. Each of the clubs has its Christmas party, and a fine holiday dinner is served for all the workers at Grasselli House, 125 being present in 1939. Gift baskets of fruit, candy and

other articles are packed and delivered the day before Christmas, these going to the sick and lonely blind of the city.

After New Years, the coming of the Metropolitan Grand Opera is eagerly awaited. Eight performances are given each year, and as many as 1400 tickets have been donated by the management for the use of the blind. These are balcony seats, close to the stage where no complete view is possible, but where every lovely note is clearly heard. Blind music lovers can go to as many performances as they wish; some go every evening! Other tickets, as for the Symphony concerts, are given each year and these are carefully distributed.

Running through thoughts and conversations all year is Highbrook Lodge, the summer camp. It is located thirty miles from Cleveland and consists of twenty-three acres of hills, woods and streams. Guiding wires on three-foot posts are strung to all parts of the grounds, and blind people who have never adventured alone may follow the wire into the deep woods, rest on a bench and listen to the birds. Groups of thirty are taken to the camp in cars of volunteers, and stay for ten days. The younger blind women may be followed by the older blind men, and so on through the season. The effect, especially on the newly blinded, is astonishing. To get into a totally different environment, eat delicious, though not necessarily expensive food, to have numerous picnics with the delights of eating out of doors, to come to know, intimately, other blind persons who are having the happiest possible time, is indeed a re-creation. In addition to the main house which contains large living and dining rooms, dormitory and kitchens, there are several cottages for sleeping, a fine dance hall and, newest of all, a solarium for sun bathing and complete rest. The camp itself, all the buildings and their furnishings were presented by volunteers of the Society, and discarded furniture was banned, all buildings being supplied with new and suitable equipment. "I haven't laughed so much in a year," is frequently heard as goodbyes are said to Highbrook Lodge.

Provision for a group of colored blind to spend a week at a beautiful camp on Lake Erie, using grounds, buildings and beaches of a settlement for young colored girls, has been made for the past two years, proving a delightful experience for all.

Employment

The Most Essential Need of the Blind

EVERY worker for the blind will agree with Helen Keller that it is not the darkness but the idleness that has the most baneful effect on people without sight. For an able-bodied, normal-minded blind person to be without suitable occupation is to deteriorate in every way, losing self-respect, courage and hope. Nothing is so important as to prepare the blind person for his life work, to teach his family how best to assist him and to educate the public to receive him on a basis of merit. The Society has struggled with the employment problem since 1906 with varying success, but always keeping it clearly in view as the most essential part of its work.

GRASSELLI HOUSE SHOPS

A two-story, fire-proof building contains 21,600 sq. ft. of space, of which 8,600 sq. ft. is devoted to the work of the broom shop. An electric elevator serves all the shops, and a dust elimination system has recently been installed in the broom shop. Modern equipment is used in all the departments. Every effort is made to employ handicapped men for supervision, three men, having no sight in one eye, serving as supervisors or inspectors. One of the policies of the Society is to employ persons from families where there is a blind member, when full-sighted help is needed.

Brooms and Brushes:

A broom shop was opened by the Society in December, 1907, with one man and one machine in a small house. Sales in the first full year amounted to \$1,217, with an average of five men employed. During 1939, 25 men, all having less than 20/200 vision, worked in the broom shop, and sales amounted to \$62,455.54. Thirty types of brooms are made, ten of them for household use, the balance for factories, steamship lines and railroads.

Weaving and Sewing:

Weaving was the first industry started by the Society, and has developed through the years to its greatest output in 1939. Eleven looms in the department are kept busy with rugs of half a

dozen varieties, bath mats, runners, baby blankets, scarfs and many styles of luncheon sets.

In the Sewing Department, blind women make aprons, ironing board covers, garment and laundry bags, and many other salable articles. During 1939, through the National Industries for the Blind, orders for 25,500 pillow cases were completed. Sales in the Department amounted to \$25,784.32.

Chair Caning and Basketry:

Chair reseating is carried on, and this business amounted to \$6,530.97 in 1939. Every effort is made to secure large orders, and the shop is seldom without a couch, coming from the teachers' restrooms in the Public Schools. These couches have to be recovered from time to time with cane webbing. 2,245 articles of furniture were handled during 1939.

Baskets of a dozen different varieties are made and find a ready market.

Tag Wiring:

Agencies all over the country are searching for employment for blind people who are incapable of performing tasks which require much skill of hand or concentration of mind. The Cleveland Society is solving this problem through its so-called "Tag Wiring Department," which has developed into a shop where a great many simple types of work are performed. This work started in April, 1937, with an order to put wires, cut to required length, through the holes in tags and then give them a couple of twists. This business is obtained directly from the users of the various items. During 1939 seven million pieces were turned out, and they included tags, catalogs to be enclosed in containers, and assembling of crates used in shipping small light bulbs. This department is now used as a means of testing out applicants for work of all kinds.

Sales of Blind-made Products:

Sales are handled through the following channels: direct to manufacturing plants, hotels, steamship lines, railways, City, State and Federal governments, and institutions. Blind canvassers sell from house to house, and sales are made at churches, conventions, food shows, etc. A blind salesman and a sales-

woman are employed for soliciting business on a full-time basis. In addition to the above outlets, the Boy Scouts put on an annual campaign to sell brooms. Their solicitation is through the month of May, and they receive ten cents for each order turned in, this money to be used only to pay their expense at the Scout Camp or for the purchase of scout equipment. The Retail Merchants' Board makes all deliveries and collections, a most valuable service to the Society. The 1939 campaign was the thirteenth and broom orders totalled 19,622. The advantages of this effort are four-fold: the housewife gets an excellent broom for her money, scouts get valuable experience, the scout organization extends its camp privileges to many more boys than before this chance for earning money was started, and the Society gets valuable publicity, and many orders for the often slack summer months.

During the period from October first to June first, one-week sales are held in the four leading downtown department stores. First-floor space is donated, also a display window on the avenue, free delivery service, and the assistance of two to four clerks who write up orders after sales have been made by the volunteers of the Society. The stores also include notice of the sales in their daily advertising. All the products of the shops at Grasselli House and of the Home Work Department are attractively displayed and about sixty volunteers assist during each week. A permanent sales shop is located at Grasselli House, where merchandise to the amount of \$2,600 was sold in 1939. Through December a vacant store, in a residential neighborhood, is used as a holiday shop. This sale is managed by members of one committee, the Council Committee, and no expense is involved, as all fixtures and decorations are supplied by a downtown store.

Home Work Department:

After instruction by teachers from the Society, men and women who must work at home turn out many salable articles, such as hearth and twisted wire brushes, doll furniture, baskets and hand-hemmed tea towels. These are sold with the products of the Grasselli House Shops, and 52 blind adults were provided with occupation and income in this way during 1939.

Applicants for work must be passed on by the Case Work department, which makes a careful study of the health and

mental stability of each individual. After a period of testing in the Tag Wiring Department, they are placed at work for which they are best qualified.

Wages are on both a piece work and hourly basis, depending on the nature of the work. Beginners in the broom shop are paid a flat rate of \$10 a week while learning the trade. Soup and coffee are served gratis at noon, supplementing lunches brought from home. One week's vacation and all holidays with full pay are given, and much good clothing is distributed to the most needy.

CONCESSION STANDS

The Cleveland Society for the Blind was one of the pioneers in the field of placing blind men and women as operators of concession stands in hospitals, factories and public buildings.

Years of experience have proven the need for the Society to operate these stands in the same business-like manner as other employment activities at Grasselli House, and thus when a stand is once established it is available for service to successive operators and is not lost as an employment opportunity to our people. By retaining ownership of the stand as Society property and giving the stand and its operator complete sighted supervision, many difficult problems are eliminated, a business-like approach is maintained to the public and the returns to the blind operator are maintained at their maximum level.

This activity provides employment opportunities to the capable men and women who are not normally manual workers and to some for whom manual employment is impossible because of age or other physical conditions. However, these persons must have good personality, acceptable personal appearance and a high standard of ethics and morale. To their customers they are the Society for the Blind and represent the agency and all the other blind persons of the community. Through their good performance the sighted public receives a positive education as to the possibilities of life in a normal environment after blindness and many sighted persons observing these stands approach their own visual disabilities with much less panic and despair than is otherwise experienced.

In Memoriam



PRUDENCE SHERWIN

One of the founders of
The Cleveland Society for the Blind
and an officer for thirty-two years

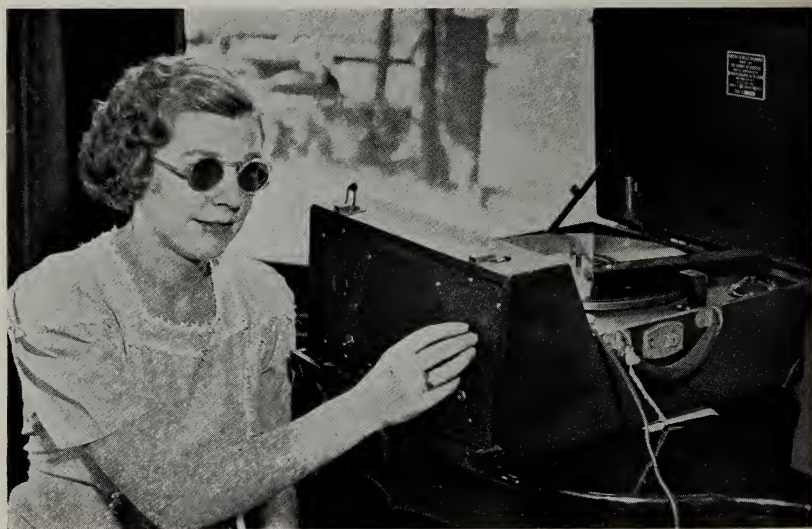
*A friend whose heart went out in understanding
and in deep warmth of feeling to all who must
walk in darkness*



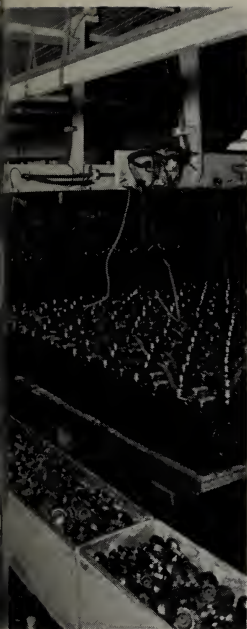
Thirteenth Annual Boy Scout Campaign



*Blind Man Doing
Bat*



Enjoying the Latest Talking Book Records



*"Digging" in Storage
Plant*



Tabulating Radio Advertising on Typewriter



Happy Days at Highbrook Lodge



Type of Refreshment Stands Used in Public Buildings



Preparing for a Children's Concert. Blind Teacher and Pupils in a Public School.

During the past year 11 stands were in operation and the total retail sales were \$92,304.87. The net income to the 14 blind persons served by these 11 stands was \$12,842.68, thus making the average yearly income per blind operator \$917.33.

The passage of the Randolph-Sheppard Act in June 1936 has opened the doors of Federal buildings to blind persons throughout the nation in those States where responsible agencies can be designated to install and supervise these stands. Approximately 260 are now in operation in Federal buildings and it is estimated that at least 500 more have been established in non-Federal buildings as a result of this energizing influence. Many States have passed State-wide legislation similar to the Federal bill and thus opened State, county, and municipal buildings to blind persons in a similar manner.

Unfortunately, the Federal legislation provides no funds for the installation of equipment, and the agencies must finance such installations through local means at their disposal. It is hoped that Congress may some day correct this defect.

Experience has indicated that at least one full-time sighted supervisor is necessary for each group of 15 or 20 stands. This supervisor must see to it that harmonious public relations are maintained with the grantors of privileges and that blind operators continue to give to the public a service requiring no apology.

One blind and one near-blind man work as partners in several Cleveland stands. Where this is not feasible, a member of the operator's family serves as assistant, thus retaining the entire income for the man and his dependents.

Cleveland has five stands in hospitals and several in downtown buildings, among which are the City Hall and Police Headquarters.

Meetings of stand operators are held at Grasselli House from time to time for discussion of their mutual problems and exchange of ideas with both the staff and with each other, and have proven to be very valuable.

WORK PROMOTED AND SECURED BY THE SOCIETY

Various forms of assistance are given to blind persons whose work is not directly sponsored by the Society. This includes advertising for piano tuning, circularizing prospective employers, securing scholarships, promoting musicians and other entertainers, and occasional gifts of typewriters. Placements in factories are secured, if possible, by the Society, and openings for dictaphone work are sought, but not at present secured.

Artificial eyes and glasses to cover defective looking eyes, or to increase a very small amount of vision, are always supplied when their use will increase chances for employment.

The refreshment-stand program was started in 1922, with a very small space offered by a lithographing concern. A total of thirty-four such concessions have been secured up to the present time. The original plan was to let the operator repay the Society for initial stock and equipment and then carry on independently. Five stands so started are still in operation; two in factories, two in hospitals, and one in a small building in the downtown area. The Society maintains a close relationship with the operators and is able to offer suggestions from time to time. A number of manufacturing concerns having stands, went out of business during the depression.

EMPLOYMENT OF CLEVELAND'S BLIND — 1939

Attorneys -----	3
Basket Making -----	3
Broom Making -----	25
Chair Seating -----	5
Chiropractic -----	1
Clerks -----	3
Dictaphone Operating -----	1
Door Mat Making -----	5
Factory Work -----	6
Insurance -----	4
Janitors or Assistants -----	5
Junk Dealer -----	1
Laboring -----	2
Magazine Subscriptions -----	1
Massage -----	1
Musicians -----	10
Newspapers -----	1
Piano Tuning -----	9
Peddlers—carry their wares -----	14
Salesmen—Brooms -----	12
Salesmen—Miscellaneous -----	9
Sewing and Weaving -----	18
Stand Operating -----	24
Tag Wiring and Kindred Occupations -----	35
Teachers -----	2
Miscellaneous -----	9
	209

Total Blind in Cuyahoga County -----	1057
Total Employable -----	275 or 26%
Total Blind Earning Money Outside of Their Homes in 1939 -----	209 or 19.7%

Volunteer Service

A WARM heart and willing feet do not make a successful volunteer. There must be education in the particular field to be served, eagerness to do the assigned task, and an attractive and bracing personality. Much depends on the guidance, as interest cannot be maintained if the work demands too little intelligence or too much time. The Society has depended greatly on its *unpaid staff*, without which help a much larger budget would have to be prepared each year.

A committee for Social Service was organized in 1906, shortly after the Society was formed. Its members lived in all parts of the city and did visiting on the blind in their own section. Activities of this committee broadened as needs became apparent, and many important projects were conceived and carried through with marked success. This original Social Service Committee is still the parent of the present volunteer work. In 1922 a group of Jewish women became interested in putting on sales of blind-made merchandise, and from this beginning came the Council Committee, so called because all its members are also members of the Cleveland Council of Jewish Women. Case work with the Jewish blind is one of their activities, several committee members having taken social work training courses. Sales of the products of Grasselli House shops are arranged and advertised by this committee, and much additional help given wherever needed in the Society's program.

About the same time, three additional committees were organized, two to care for the needs of the blind on the West Side and in Lakewood, and one to serve the colored blind. The Lakewood Committee knows all the blind people in that suburb, maintains a club of men and women for which motor service and programs are arranged, and gives several parties each year. The West Side Committee call upon the blind, many of whom are indigent, and no committee does more hard work than this group of devoted women. They provide needed clothing, transportation to hospitals and dispensaries, and a hundred and one other services.

The Colored Committee is composed of women from the Missionary Societies of seventeen colored churches of the city. Each member is assigned a certain number of blind people for calling and any other service which seems to be indicated. Choosing the most alert blind, a club called the Cheerio Circle has been formed and meets bi-monthly at Grasselli House. This Circle has programs of speakers and other entertainment mapped out for the entire season, and what they undertake is put through with a high degree of intelligence.

The Junior Committee began its work in 1927, and is so named because most of its members belong to the Junior League. The development of dramatics among the blind is one of the major interests of this group. It is felt that such an activity develops poise and self-confidence on the part of the players, and is the best possible interpretation to the public of the abilities of the blind. Then, too, it is lots of fun for all concerned, as sketches selected have always a comedy side.

The above committees all assist in the varied program of the Society and meet monthly for consultation, a member of the staff always being present as advisor.

Less closely connected are the two Sororities, Chi Omega and Delta Gamma, both of which make annual gifts for special purposes and give a good deal of service. The Lions' Clubs and the Shaker Heights Neighborhood Guild also contribute to the needs of the Society.

CONSTITUTION OF THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

ARTICLE I—NAME:

The name of this organization shall be The Cleveland Society for the Blind.

ARTICLE II—PURPOSE:

The purpose of the Society is to further the interests of the blind and to open to them all possible avenues to independence and self-support, through investigation, education and recreation.

ARTICLE III—BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

The management of the Society shall be vested in a Board of Trustees composed of not less than five, nor more than thirty members of the Society. The members of the Board of Trustees shall be elected at the annual meeting of the Society, or at any special meeting called for such purpose, and shall hold office for one year and until their successors are elected and qualify.

The Board of Trustees shall have entire charge of the property, finances and affairs of the Society, and shall have power to fill any vacancy in its own body for the residue of the term.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS:

The officers of the Society shall be a president, two vice-presidents, a secretary, and a treasurer, whose duties shall be such as the Board of Trustees shall prescribe.

The officers shall be elected by the Board of Trustees at its annual meeting. Any vacancy in any office shall be filled by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE V—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The officers of the Society, together with such other Trustees as the Board of Trustees may appoint, shall constitute an executive committee.

The executive committee shall exercise all of the powers of the Board of Trustees between meetings of the Board of Trustees, and such other duties as the Board of Trustees shall assign to it.

ARTICLE VI—MEETINGS AND FISCAL YEAR:

The regular annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the third Tuesday of February. Special meetings may be called by the president or by two or more members of the Board of Trustees by notice in writing to each member. Ten members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Society.

The financial and statistical year shall end December 31st.

ARTICLE VII—AMENDMENTS:

The constitution may be amended by the assent thereto in writing of two-thirds of the members, or by a majority of the members present at a meeting held for that purpose, of which meeting and purpose written notice has been given to each member.

ARTICLE VIII—

The number of members of the Society shall be one hundred and fifty, or such other number as may be fixed at the annual meeting of the Society. Any person may be a member of the Society, who shall be elected by the members at the annual meeting of the Society or at any meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The term of one-half of the members elected in 1936 shall expire at the annual meeting held in 1938, and the term of one-half of the members elected at the annual meeting in 1936 shall expire at the annual meeting held in 1937. The term of other members shall expire at the second annual meeting following their election.

The secretary shall keep a record of membership, in which shall be inscribed the name and address of each member of the Society, the date of admission to membership, and the date upon which the term of membership expires.

The members of the Society may vote by proxy at any regular or special meeting of the Society.

BY-LAWS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE CLEVELAND SOCIETY FOR THE BLIND

ARTICLE I—MEETING:

The Board of Trustees shall hold a meeting immediately following the annual meeting of the Society, and such other meetings as may be called by the President. Special meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be called on the written request of two or more Trustees. The purpose of any meeting called at the request of two or more Trustees shall be stated in the call and no other business shall be transacted.

Not less than three (3) days' notice of all meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be given by the secretary by mail.

Ten members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE II—ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The order of business at meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be as follows:

1. Reading of minutes,
2. Reports of officers and committees,
3. Unfinished and new business,
4. Election.

ARTICLE III—DUTIES OF OFFICERS:

1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee, and perform all duties incident to the office.

2. In the absence of the President, a Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President.

3. The Secretary shall have charge of the records of the Society, shall give due notice of all meetings of the Society and of the Executive Committee and shall keep the minutes of such meetings.

4. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all moneys of the Society and keep an accurate account thereof, but the Treasurer may assign such of his duties to the Executive Secretary and the Business Manager, as may be approved by the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer and any employee having authority to receive or disburse funds of the Society shall furnish a fidelity bond in such sum and upon such conditions, and in a surety company, approved by the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IV—EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

The Executive Committee shall be in charge of the Society when the Board of Trustees is not in session, and shall meet at the call of the President upon twenty-four (24) hours' notice by mail or telephone. It shall conduct the regular work of the Society and may exercise all of the powers of the Board of Trustees, and shall perform such special duties as the Board of Trustees shall assign to it.

ARTICLE V—FINANCE COMMITTEE:

The Finance Committee shall consist of not more than five (5) members of the Board of Trustees, appointed by the President, and shall have authority to sell and exchange any and all of the securities and other investments of the Society, and may invest funds of the Society. The Finance Committee shall report to the Board of Trustees at each meeting all actions taken by it since the preceding meeting of the Board of Trustees.

ARTICLE IV—AMENDMENTS:

These by-laws may be amended at any meeting of the Trustees by a majority vote.

ADDITIONAL SERVICES
CITY AND STATE

Braille Classes in the Cleveland Public Schools

*Harriet E. Totman, Visiting Teacher, Braille Classes,
Cleveland Public Schools*

THE Braille Classes in the Cleveland Public Schools, known at their inception in 1909 as the Department for the Blind, are now a part of the Sight Saving Class Department. The Sight Saving Classes developed under the Department for the Blind for those children whose low vision or need for restricted eye use prevented their pursuing their work as other children do. These classes have outnumbered the Braille classes and during the school year 1938-39, 389 pupils, enrolled in sight saving classes, were able to get their education through their eyes with special attention and equipment. During this same year 7 pupils were entered in the Braille classes with a total enrollment of 38.

Although for several years there has been no decrease in the ratio of the number of Braille class pupils to the total school population, there is a noticeable increase in the amounts of vision some of these children have retained and a corresponding decrease in the number of Braille pupils who are totally dark. The eye defect of no child admitted during the past ten years has been due to ophthalmia neonatorum. This is a definite tribute to the splendid and prompt medical care that is being given by the Cleveland oculists and nurses.

Braille classes are maintained in two school buildings, two classes in one elementary school, centrally located so as to care for children all over the city, and one class in a junior high school. In these classes the pupils are taught Braille, handwork, and music, and are aided in the preparation of their lessons and in development of independence by a special class teacher. They compete with the seeing pupils in the building, going to the classes for oral recitation and participating in school activities. Many times they exceed their schoolmates in achievement.

Senior high pupils attend the school in their own district. They prepare their work through use of Braille books and the Talking Book and by having lessons read aloud by other stu-

dents. They are assisted in planning their courses and in adjustments in the school by the visiting teacher.

Special service for the pre-school child is available also through the visiting teacher. This includes visits in the home, advice to the parents, psychological testing and assistance in broadening the child's experiences. The purpose of this work is to have the child enter school as independent as his capacity permits and as soon as he is developed enough for this. A Braille class child of normal mentality is admitted to the regular kindergarten at the age of 5, and receives valuable social training there before his entrance to the Braille class when he is ready for reading.

The aim of the Braille classes is to give the pupil an education equivalent to that of his seeing brothers and sisters, to give such additional training as his handicap necessitates and to make it possible for him to take the place in society that his total personality permits. Some of these pupils leave school before the completion of the 12 grades for lack of capacity. Some seek work at the end of the high school, sometimes finding it only in sheltered shops such as at Grasselli House, while others go on to college and, after creditable work there, are sometimes able to secure work among the sighted. Public school Braille class graduates have found employment as insurance salesmen, masseur, social workers, home teachers, music teachers, radio entertainers and lecturers.

The Prevention of Blindness

Wm. Evans Bruner, M. D.

THE keystone of all work for the prevention of blindness is education and then more education, aided at times by legislation and even this often requires education before legislative action can be obtained.

Ophthalmia neonatorum furnishes an excellent illustration of what is being accomplished through this combination of education and legislation in the reduction of cases entering our blind schools and classes from 22.8%, in 25 years, to 7%. All the States have not yet passed laws on this subject, so there is hope that this percentage can be still further reduced.

The more thorough treatment of syphilis and the present national campaign on syphilis will undoubtedly show a decrease in the cases of blindness from this cause. We have already seen a decided reduction in early and late syphilis eye diseases among adults while interstitial keratitis among children, the result usually of hereditary syphilis, is becoming, at least in our experience, a rare disease.

The campaign against tuberculosis, together with its modern treatment, is resulting in the saving of eyes that otherwise would be lost from this cause.

The teaching of mothers on the subject of hygiene and proper diet for children has resulted in a great reduction and, I hope, the ultimate elimination of that inflammatory disease of childhood known as phlyctenular conjunctivitis and keratitis. Formerly very common, it has become so rare in our own experience that in recent years we have been unable to obtain cases to show our medical students.

Parents are also being advised upon the importance of taking their children, of whatever age, to see an eye physician whenever a squint or "cross eye" becomes evident so that proper treatment can be instituted in the hope that partial blindness of one eye may possibly be prevented, and taught not to postpone action in the hope that time and nature will effect a cure. The importance of squint from the economic and social standpoint should also not be overlooked.

The fight against trachoma shows what can be accomplished by law making it a reportable disease, by segregation of cases thus afflicted and by teaching of ocular hygiene, aided by the nurses who follow up all cases reported to the health authorities.

The campaign for a sane fourth of July is having its effect in lessening eye injuries and even blindness from accidents previously so common upon that occasion, and as laws become general throughout the country further reduction will, no doubt, be seen.

The safety campaign in industry is having a great influence, aided by legislation in many states which puts a duty also upon the employees to use the safety devices furnished by the companies, if the employees hope to secure indemnity in case of injury. Here the Cleveland Safety Council is accomplishing excellent work. It has recently added an ophthalmic division under a group of oculists who with the financial support of the Opticians' League is sending a man among the manufacturing plants explaining to the employees methods and importance of prevention of eye injuries in their work.

The National Society for the Prevention of Blindness is doing an excellent work throughout the country, sending representatives as needed to aid in the formation of local societies when they are needed and to help in formulating legislation in states backward in that work.

Education in reference to chronic glaucoma, the most insidious of diseases among elderly people, and also in reference to cataract, needs much more expansion and here follow-up work by visiting nurses from eye clinics and hospitals is of much importance. The same is true in failure of vision from any cause, in the hope that relief may be obtained before irreparable damage has been done.

The schools, through the school physicians, aided by the school nurses, are accomplishing important work in combating myopia and preventing blindness, as are also the sight saving classes.

The Cleveland Museum of Health and Hygiene, which we are hoping to see established in our city, will have a section de-

voted to the eyes and should prove another valuable means of education.

The Sight Saving Council has been doing good work along educational lines through the public schools; in various organizations, such as Parent and Teachers Association, and among factory managers and employees, though possibly they do at times tend to over-stress merely the question of light. There is still work for the lighting and illuminating engineers, though they have already accomplished much good.

Lastly, every oculist and every eye dispensary and hospital should be a teacher to the laity of the value of ocular hygiene, the proper care of the eyes and the importance of consulting a properly qualified medical man in all cases of injury and inflammation of the eyes, however trivial they may at first seem to the patient or in the case of children to the children's parents.

In ordering glasses for children and for certain classes of workmen, the value of shatter-proof glasses should be stressed as a safe-guard against serious injury to the eyes from broken glass.

In all our work, public and private, we must never lose sight of the importance of prevention.

The Library for the Blind

of The Cleveland Public Library

Louise C. Roberts, Librarian for the Blind

SINCE we made our last report, in 1928, great changes have taken place in libraries for the blind.

The Project, Books for the Adult Blind, in the Library of Congress was established on July 1, 1931, as a result of the Act of Congress approved March 3, 1931, which authorized an annual appropriation of \$100,000 to enable the Librarian of Congress to provide books for the adult blind residents of the United States. This amount was appropriated for embossed books.

"In 1934 the Talking Book has sufficiently demonstrated its success and a sufficient number of machines were in use to justify distribution of records as well as books." By an act of Congress on June 14, 1935, an appropriation of \$75,000 per annum was made for this purpose. On September 19, 1935, President Roosevelt allocated to the Library of Congress, from the Emergency Relief Funds, \$211,500 for the construction of 5,000 Talking Book machines for the purpose of enabling the blind to use the recorded books provided by the Library of Congress. This was the first of seven allotments for this purpose, and at the beginning of 1938 there were 14,040 of these machines which were distributed among the blind in the United States. The appropriation for the Talking Book records was increased to \$175,000, making a total amount of \$275,000 to be used for books for the blind.

The embossed and Talking Books, for which these appropriations were made, are distributed among the twenty-seven libraries for the blind in the United States, of which the Cleveland Library for the Blind is one. As a result we have a large library of embossed and Talking Books which has been sent to us, without charge, by the Library of Congress. We receive new books several times a month. Many of our titles are recent ones, sometimes coming only a month or six weeks after the ink print books have been published.

The majority of the embossed books sent us by the Library

of Congress are in Braille 2. Many of our Braille 1½ books are made by the volunteer hand transcribers of Cleveland. These hand transcribed books are of immeasurable value to the library, as they give us titles we would not otherwise have, and many readers prefer the hand transcribed books.

Our collection of books includes 8,143 volumes in Braille 1 and 1½, 10,771 volumes in Braille 2, and 3,189 volumes in Moon type. There are 86 copies of magazines in Braille and 14 in Moon. We also have 2 New York Point magazines. In the Talking Book collection there are 2,666 boxes of records. This library serves the readers in Northern Ohio. The hand transcribed books are sent to readers anywhere in the United States. 1,107 readers borrowed books from this library in 1939, and there was a total circulation of 35,142 volumes.

Books in Braille and Moon type may be borrowed, free of charge, by any blind person living within our district. The Talking Book records are sent to readers who send to the library the identification card which comes with the Talking Book machine, or to readers whose names are sent to the library by teachers who give instruction in the use of the Talking Book machines.

The books, both embossed and the records, are sent free of charge through the mail. A return franked label is enclosed with the books so that the borrower may return them without expense.

A number of blind readers come to the library to select their own books.

Books in embossed type may be kept for one month, and if necessary may be renewed for one month longer. The Talking Books may be kept two weeks. These also may be renewed. There are no fines for overdue books and records.

The Library for the blind is open daily from 9 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.

Blind Relief

Mrs. Beatrice Coughlin, Director of the Blind Relief Dept.

ADMINISTRATION of Blind Relief is a function of the Board of County Commissioners to provide financial assistance to indigent blind persons between the ages of eighteen to sixty-five years who are unable to support themselves.

Eligibility for Blind Relief is determined by a medical examination showing extent of disability; length of residence in State and County, and "Need" as defined in Section 2965 of the General Code of Ohio:

Section 2965: "Any person of either sex, who by reason of loss of eyesight, is unable to provide himself with the necessities of life, who has not sufficient means of his own to maintain himself and who, unless relieved as authorized by these provisions, would become a charge upon the public or upon those not required by law to support him."

Each recipient is visited in his place of residence at least quarterly, and is reinvestigated annually.

During the year 1939 Cuyahoga County paid \$95,865.10 to some 363 blind persons, at an average grant of \$22.02 per month.

The Federal, State and County Governments contribute, and the cost of such aid is pro rated on the basis of one-sixth to the State; two-sixths to the County, and three-sixths to the Federal Government.

Application is made at the Office of the County Commissioners, Aid to Blind Department, 304 Marion Bldg., 1276 W. 3rd St., Mrs. Beatrice Coughlin, Director.

Braille Transcribing

Mrs. Josephine S. Enever, Director, Volunteer Braille Transcribers of Cleveland

CLEVELAND played an important part in the development of plans for Braille transcribing which have been carried out by groups of volunteers in various cities throughout the United States during the past twenty years. Mrs. Gertrude T. Rider, then in charge of the Service for the Blind in the Library of Congress, asked Mr. Harold T. Clark, of Cleveland, in 1918 whether it would be practicable to interest volunteers in transcribing books in Braille for use in re-educating our soldiers blinded in the World War. This led to a meeting in Cleveland among Mrs. Rider, Mr. Robert B. Irwin, now Executive Director of the American Foundation for the Blind, but then in charge of work for the Blind in the Cleveland Public Schools, and Mr. Clark. As a result thereof, a leaflet was printed here and given wide circulation throughout the country under the title: "Instructions for Making Hand-Copied Cheer-Up Books for American Blinded Soldiers." The response was most gratifying and led to the formation of groups, at one time 149 in number, which under the American Red Cross have continued to function for over twenty years. After the special needs of the War-blind ceased, these groups contributed their books to the Library of Congress and to local libraries. The books have been of particular help to blind high school and college students.

In Cleveland the existence of The Howe Publishing Society for the Blind afforded a means of producing Braille Books more effectively than was possible by hand, so that it was not until 1925 that the Volunteer Braille Transcribers of Cleveland began to play their important part in producing hand-copied books for the blind.

All Cleveland Braille Transcribers are trained by the local directors. This course of training requires three or four months, depending upon the individual and the amount of time that can be devoted to it. All final work, which consists of a fifty-page trial manuscript, must be certified before transcribers can qualify

to do work for the public. All writing done by volunteers is proofread by trained sightless proofreaders.

The first title consisting of three volumes was deposited in The Cleveland Library in 1926. From that time up to the present, the Library has been presented with 277 titles comprising 1,343 volumes. In addition many books have been written for individuals, numerous volumes of music and books for college students in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Mississippi, Arkansas and California.

We feel more than gratified and take great pride in the service rendered by the Cleveland Braille Volunteers to the sightless public.

